

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 7-9 are pending in the application, with each being an independent claim. The amendment to claim 8 is believed to introduce no new matter, and its entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,038,840 to Ishimori *et al.* Claim 8 has been amended above to recite that the chute for grass clippings is disposed *directly* above the housing for the axle driving apparatus. The Ishimori *et al.* patent does not disclose this feature, as the axle driving apparatus of Ishimori *et al.* (transmission 7, 8) is disposed to the side of transport duct (14), as best seen in FIG. 3 of Ishimori *et al.* Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Allowed Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 7 and 9. With the amendment to claim 8 above, Applicants look forward to receipt of a Notice of Allowance.

Conclusion

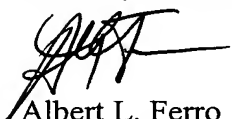
All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be

withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: Aug. 9, 2005

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SKGF_425682.1